

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 31

Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez
(Principal coauthor: Senator Lara)

March 7, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 31—Relative to Cinco de Mayo Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 31, as introduced, V. Manuel Pérez. Cinco de Mayo Week.

This measure would proclaim May 1 through May 7, 2013, as Cinco de Mayo Week, and would urge all Californians to join in celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is
2 memorialized as a significant date in the history of California and
3 Mexico in recognition of the Latinos of California who offered
4 their support and risked their lives to defend freedom and
5 democracy in both the United States and Mexico; and
6 WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the American Civil War,
7 Latinos in California have shown their support for the institutions
8 of freedom and democracy by joining the forces of the United
9 States Army, Cavalry, and Navy, risking their lives to defend free
10 institutions; and
11 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to join the Armed Forces
12 of the Union freely offered their support for President Abraham
13 Lincoln; and

1 WHEREAS, The American Civil War, making it impossible
2 for the United States to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, provided an
3 opportunity for the Emperor of France, Napoléon III, to establish
4 a monarchy in Mexico, thereby attempting to destroy democratic
5 institutions that derive their power from the consent of the
6 governed; and

7 WHEREAS, Latinos, including Californios, also offered their
8 support and risked their lives in Mexico to defend freedom and
9 democracy in that country by joining the armed forces of that sister
10 republic; and

11 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to travel to Mexico to
12 physically defend free institutions freely offered their support to
13 President Benito Juárez by organizing over 122 Juntas Patrióticas
14 Mexicanas within California to raise funds that were sent every
15 month from California to Mexico to defray the costs of war in that
16 country; and

17 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo serves to remind us that the
18 foundation of any nation and our state is its people, in their spirit
19 and courage in the face of adversity, in the strength of their drive
20 to achieve self-determination, and in their willingness to sacrifice
21 even life itself in the pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

22 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo offers an opportunity to reflect on
23 the courage and achievements not only of the Mexican forces at
24 Puebla, but also on the courage and achievements of Latinos here
25 in California; and

26 WHEREAS, Achievements by Latinos in America and
27 California include contributions to all facets of our community;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Latino voters continue to go to the polls in record
30 numbers and influence the entrance of newly elected Latino public
31 officials in both the Democratic and Republican parties and issues
32 encompassing providing affordable housing, investing in our
33 children, ensuring that higher education is affordable and
34 accessible, creating good paying jobs for working families, and
35 improving the overall quality of life for all Californians; and

36 WHEREAS, California's Latinos have contributed to the state's
37 culture and society through their many achievements in music,
38 food, dance, poetry, literature, architecture, entertainment, sports,
39 and a broad spectrum of artistic expression; and

1 WHEREAS, Latinos in California have challenged the frontiers
2 of social and economic justice, thereby improving the working
3 conditions and lives of countless Californians; and

4 WHEREAS, Latino entrepreneurs in the United States are the
5 fastest growing group of business owners in our economy; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2001, the Latino Caucus saw a need to recognize
7 and honor distinguished Latinos for their contributions and
8 dedication to California and the United States' economy and
9 cultural life with the annual Latino Spirit Awards. These recipients
10 are outstanding individuals who have greatly contributed to the
11 wonderful music, poetry, literature, journalism, and entertainment
12 of California, the United States, and the world; now, therefore, be
13 it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature urges all Californians to
16 join in celebrating Cinco de Mayo, the historic day to honor the
17 brave spirit of Latinos from California who defended freedom and
18 democracy in the United States during the Civil War and in Mexico
19 during the French Intervention, and the Latino noncombatants who
20 freely gave their votes and resources to defend free institutions,
21 and the Latinos of California who fought to defend the freedom
22 of the United States in every armed conflict from the Spanish
23 American War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan;
24 and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares May 1 through May 7,
26 2013, as Cinco de Mayo Week; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
28 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.